

Story 1666 (1994 Tape 1

Narrator: Cevdet Uğuz,  
veterinarian

Location: Taşkale village,  
Karaman (capital  
of vilayet but  
former kaza merkezi),  
Karaman Province

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Pumpkins, Walnuts and the Wisdom of Allah

One day Nasreddin Hoca<sup>1</sup> was walking through his fruit vegetable garden. He noticed some huge pumpkins grow on the weak stems of pumpkin plants. Then as he looked upward he saw many small nuts growing on the branches of a very large walnut tree. Thinking about the pumpkins and walnuts, the Hoca said to himself, "Allah surely made a mistake when He created these plants. The big pumpkins should be growing on the big tree, and the walnuts should be growing on the weak little vines running along the ground

It was a very warm day, and the Hoca began to feel drowsy. He lay down in the shade of the walnut tree and took a nap. As he was sleeping there, however, a walnut

from above and struck him on the head. Only slightly hurt by the walnut, Nasreddin Hoca looked up and said, "I

<sup>1</sup>Nasreddin Hoca is the most popular of all Turkish comic folk characters. Stories about him are legion.

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shall never again question what Allah has created. What  
would have happened to me if that walnut had been a pumpkin?"